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it set aside. This was decreed on ground that A, B, was *non compos mentis* when he executed the will. *Held*, that the proceedings under the original probate were not void, but voidable, since the court had jurisdiction, and therefore a purchaser from a devisee under the will would be protected. The court says that the case is like that of a man who buys from an executor whose appointment is revoked, where the purchaser gets a good title. *Thompson v. Samson*, 30 Pac. Rep. 980 (Cal.).

REVIEWS.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE CONSTITUTION. By Morris M. Cohn, Attorney-at-Law. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1892.

That his book is of no use to the practising lawyer as such is almost admitted by the author. Its field is in the most general study of constitutional history,—“a study showing the play of physical and social factors in the creation of institutional law,” as his sub-title puts it. Its use within this field is decidedly elementary. A fairly complete, though somewhat vague, summary of the author’s theories on the general philosophy of political growth, getting what semblance of unity it has from the conclusion that our Constitution, like unwritten ones, is “amenable to the under-current of national life,” makes up the treatise. It is, in short, an average essay of the kind naturally so popular, in which the names and general methods of science play a larger part than any actual useful research. The author gives his judgment on many ultimate laws of history, ethics, and sociology, but treats no subject in a manner thorough enough to aid a real student.

N. H.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By Simon Greenleaf, LL.D. In three volumes. Fifteenth edition, revised, with large additions, by Simon Greenleaf Croswell. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1892.

The number of editions through which this work has run in the fifty years of its existence is a striking commentary on its importance. Despite the shortcomings which have been brought out by modern critical study, it is to this day a standard referred to more frequently and respectfully than any other book in its department of the law.

Mr. Croswell has added about nineteen hundred cases, mostly those decided since the last edition in 1883, and has summarized the advance of the law in several of the most important and most rapidly developing branches, by means of long and elaborate notes. So far the work is well done. The latest authorities, however, are not always given; but, as is stated in the preface, there are included “mainly such cases . . . as are deemed most important in principle or instructive as showing the tendency of the courts in new lines of decision.” . . . However judicious this selection has been, it must somewhat lessen the utility of the work to a busy practitioner.

The added notes simply piece out the statements made originally by Mr. Greenleaf. They contain the recent cases, their results, and the reasons assigned by the courts, but their value would be greatly increased if Mr. Croswell had given his own conclusions in his own